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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

I moved to rural Virginia from Silicone Valley in 1999 and was astonished at the lack of available choices for internet. Basically, there was only one small business that provider. They understand our community and our needs. During this time I was a reporter for the local paper so I closely followed the development of internet and then broadband in our community. We have excellent service now and the small internet providers are an integral part of our network. They have been my choice for the last 20 years. I welcome competition but fear that the large telecom companies will put small rural internet providers out of business, thereby limiting competition to our detriment. In particular, these small providers are members of our community and support us as well. I am director of the local United Way non-profit and the large telecom companies are NOT going to give us a discount and support our community efforts by providing the kind of service we need.

The large telecom companies did not care about providing internet and broadband service to rural areas to begin with and I don't expect them to care much in the future. With the advent of digital media and streaming, now they are interested because they can make a lot of money and destroy competition.

Our county of 40,000 people worked hard to get funding to provide broadband service at a reasonable cost to our residents and the community came together to make that possible, giving a choice to our residents. Our businesses rely on the availability of Broadband and many here work from home. It is important that our investment not be negated by large telecom providers becoming a monopoly, restricting competition, restricting how we get our broadband and raising prices.

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